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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/071,795	02/06/2002	Raul-Adrian Cernea	M-10314 US	2871

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PARSONS HSUE & DE RUNTZ LLP
655 MONTGOMERY STREET
SUITE 1800
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THAN VINH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2187	5

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	S
	10/071,795	CERNEA, RAUL-ADRIAN	
	Examiner Than Nguyen	Art Unit 2187	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/3/02, 5/8/02.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1-37 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 38 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 03 May 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-38 are pending.
2. The drawings, filed 5/3/02, and IDS, filed 5/8/03, have been considered.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
4. The following title is suggested: Memory Device With Sector Pointer Structure to Map Logical Sector Addresses to Physical Sector Addresses.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Niijima et al (USP 5,457,658).

Niijima teaches a method of operating a nonvolatile memory system comprising a controller and a memory, wherein data is stored in the logical memory based on the physical address, the method comprising:

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transferring data between a host and a controller based on a logical sector address (logical address specified by host; 2/28-56; Claim 6; Figures 1,2,4,11,12A,12B); transferring data between the controller and the memory based on the logical sector address (11/5-10); converting on the memory the logical sector address into a corresponding physical sector address (logical to physical address translation; 2/27-56; Claim 6; 1,2,4,11,12A,12B) ; and accessing data stored in the memory at the corresponding physical address (access with translated physical address; 2/27-44).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-37 are allowed.
8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:
9. As to independent claims 1,11 the prior art does not the claimed non-volatile memory system comprising: a pointer structure storing correspondences between logical sector addresses and physical sector address, wherein the pointer structure maintains a first correspondence between a logical sector address and a first physical sector address at which currently valid data identified by the logical sector address is stored **and a second correspondence between the logical sector address and a second distinct physical sector address at which previously valid data identified by the logical sector address has been stored.**
10. Claims 2-10, 12-19 are also allowable for incorporating the limitations of claim 1/11, and further limitations.

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11. As to independent claim 20,29 the prior art of record does not teach the claimed method . More specifically the step of storing a second correspondence between the logical sector address and second physical sector address in the pointer structure, wherein the memory retains the first data set at the first physical sector address and the first correspondence in the pointer structure subsequent to storing the second data set and storing the second correspondence.

12. Claims 21-28,30-37 are also allowable for incorporating the limitations of claim 20,29 and further limitations.

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Than Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3866. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST.

14. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

15. The fax phone number for Art Unit 2187 is 703-308-9051 or 703-308-9052.



Than Nguyen

Primary Patent Examiner

April 29, 2003